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DISCUSSES WOLFRAM AND ANTIMONY PRODUCTION

Kan-chou -- According to prewar data, China led the world in peacetime production of wolfram and antimony, with an average yearly output of 7,000-8,000 tons.

China's wolfram deposits amount to approximately 3,500,000 metric tons. Production peaks were reached in 1918 and again in 1935 when the yearly wolfram output exceeded 10,000 metric tons, or 60 percent of the total world output.

Antimony deposits are in the neighborhood of 5,400,000 metric tons. The maximum yearly output of ore-bearing earth amounted to over 42,000 metric tons, or more than 50 percent of the world's antimony.

China's wolfram ore lies mainly in the provinces of Kiangsi, Hunan, Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Yunnan. Ore has also been discovered in Sinkiang and the Northeast. But the richest deposits lie in Southern Kiangsi, in the area bounded by T'ai-ho in the north, the Kwangtung provincial border on the south, Hui-ch'ang to the east, and the Hunan provincial boundary on the west. This area, some 200 square li, contains over 100 mines of varying proportions. More than one million metric tons of the world's richest ore deposits lie in Hsi-hua Shan (1) [numbers refer to appended characters] at Ta-keng (2), P'an-ku Shan (3) at An-yuan (4), K'uei-mei Shan (5) at Lung-nan (6), Ta-chi Shan (7) at Ch'ien-nan (8), and Hua-mei-yao (9) at Hsing-kuo Hsien (10). Kiangsi produces 70 percent of China's wolfram every year, followed by Kwangtung and Kwangsi, each having deposits of over 100,000 metric tons.

China's wolfram was first discovered in 1915 in the Yao-kang Shan (11) around I-chang Hsien (12), Ch'en Hsien (13) and Tzu-hsing Hsien (14) in Hunan, and later at Shan-mu-tung (15) in Lo-ch'ang (16) Hsien. Wolfram was first discovered in Kiangsi in 1918.

In addition to the antimony deposits all through Kiangsi, Kwangtung, Kwangsi, Yunnan, and Hunan, some have been found in Szechwan, Anhwei, and Chekiang. The richest deposits, however, are those in Hunan, at the Hsin-Hua (17) Tin Mine and the I-yang Pan'chi (18) Antimony Mine, which operate

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on a large scale. According to 1934 estimates, the Hsin-hua deposit exceeds 2,700,000 metric tons, which is half of the nation's estimated antimony reserve. The deposit at the Pan-ch'i Mine comes to about 250,000 metric tons. At maximum production, Hunan Province turns out over 26,000 metric tons of crude and pure antimony [ore] per year, more than 90 percent of the nation's output.

China's antimony was first discovered at Pan-ch'i, and a corporation was formally established in 1908. The Tin Mine was in operation a century ago (the product, being so pure, was mistaken for tin at the time and the mine was thus named in error).

On the eve of liberation, the Kiangsi Wolfram Mines employed only 5,000 men, whereas the number had once been 23,000, and only 200 skilled workmen in place of the former 3,000. By the end of November 1949, the output of 1,100 private and public wolfram mines had recovered to the extent of one third of their prewar production. At the end of 1949, the Kiangsi Wolfram Mines had completed 89.1 percent of the general quota set by a production conference.

Improvements in washing and grading machinery have raised the quality and quantity of the output. In general, the mines are well on the way to recovery.

CHARACTERS

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